

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Serial No. 09/332,996

Docket No. Q54651

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims presently pending in this application.

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 are rejected under 37 C.F.R. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe, U.S. Patent 6,331,982.

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

General Comments

While claims 1,2, 6 and 7 have been indicated as being rejected as anticipated by Watanabe (6,331,982), there is no indication as to the grounds under which claims 4, 5, 8-10 are rejected. The Examiner is kindly required to clarify the grounds under which claims 4, 5, 8 -10 have been rejected.

Rejections based on Watanabe

Claim 1 requires *inter alia* a cell generator disposed in an exchange and concentrators at remote locations. The Examiner reads the concentrator on the line response unit on the destination side of Watanabe and the exchange on the line response unit on the source side of Watanabe.

By no stretch of imagination, can the destination side be considered to be a concentrator. A concentrator in the context of communication networks is a device that requires a relatively large number of devices or circuits to share a relatively small number of circuits. Using a concentrator, the traffic is concentrated through multiplexing. For example, in the context of an

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ATM, a concentrator concentrates traffic from down stream switches in a LAN environment in order to share a high-capacity WAN.

The destination side of Watanabe is a single machine that receives ATM cells through an ATM switch. There is no disclosure (or suggestion) in Watanabe that the destination side is a concentrator. Watanabe does not disclose that the destination side concentrates downstream traffic to a single or to a relatively few circuits. In fact, Watanabe discloses a single source machine sending ATM cells through a switch to a single destination machine.

Since the destination side cannot be considered to be a concentrator, Watanabe does not suggest a control cell terminator disposed in each concentrators as required by claim 1. Further, it does not suggest the control cell terminator being configured to extract setting information from the cell data.

Further, the source side of Watanabe cannot be considered an exchange. The source side of Watanabe is simply a single computer and not an exchange. In the context of computer network communications, an exchange is a back end system that communicates with several concentrators on one side and with a backbone network on the other side. For example, Figure 1 shows an ATM exchange 100 communicating with an ATM concentrator 200 on one side and an ATM network 300 on the other side.

Claim 1 is not anticipated by Watanabe at least because of the above reasons.

Claim 6 is a method claim that includes limitations analogous to the ones described above in relation to claim 1, and therefore, is patentable at least for analogous reasons.

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Claims 2-5 are dependant on claim 1 and are allowable at least for the same reasons.

Claims 7-10 are dependant on claim 6 and are allowable for at least for the same reasons.

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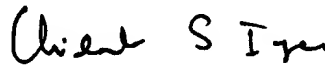
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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Chid S. Iyer
Registration No. 43,355

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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